



Executive Department  
State of Idaho

The Office of the Governor  
**Proclamation**

State Capitol  
Boise

## **2012 Better Hearing Month And Tinnitus Awareness Week**

WHEREAS, hearing healthcare professionals in the State of Idaho observe and celebrate Better Hearing Month each year during the month of May; and

WHEREAS, the State of Idaho recognizes and values the efforts of all who work to eliminate or minimize the isolating effects of communication disorders in the one in five families affected by them; and

WHEREAS, Tinnitus, often defined as "ringing in the ears," causes a person to hear ringing, buzzing, or a variety of other sounds, and to have a heightened sensitivity to sound; and

WHEREAS, tinnitus can be a debilitating condition, reducing the quality of life for those chronically affected; and

WHEREAS, As many as 50 million Americans experience tinnitus to some degree, of those, approximately 16 million have chronic tinnitus and seek medical attention for their condition, and nearly two million are debilitated by tinnitus; and

WHEREAS, Tinnitus is the number one service-related disability suffered by military personnel returning from the current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan; by 2014, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs will be paying nearly \$2.2 billion in tinnitus disability compensation annually to this country's veterans;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER, Governor of the State of Idaho, do hereby proclaim May 2012, as:

### **2012 Better Hearing Month**

and May 13-19, 2012 as:

### **2012 Tinnitus Awareness Week**

in Idaho, and encourage all citizens to recognize the achievements of hearing healthcare professionals in improving the quality of life for people with communication disorders.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Idaho at the Capitol in Boise on this 27<sup>th</sup> day of April in the year of our Lord two thousand and twelve and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred thirty-sixth and of the Statehood of Idaho the one hundred twenty-second.

C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER  
GOVERNOR

BEN YURSA  
SECRETARY OF STATE